JAN-MAR 2026 AS LX

The Meiassis Dragon

BARONY OF DRAGONSSPINE
dragonsspine.outlands.org

Greetings, Populace of Dragonsspine!

It's hard to believe sometimes that we're already a quarter of the way into the new year. With every milestone, though, comes change. As we look into Spring, we look forward to a transition in our illustrious Baron and Baroness as they step down and open the way for fresh perspectives. As the new Baron and Baroness are invested next quarter, Dragonsspine takes a deep breath and steps confidently into a new chapter, ready to face new challenges and create new experiences, culminating the end of the next quarter with Battlemoor! Come with us now as we get a peek into the goals, experiences, and thoughts of Maistir Toirrdhealbhaigh mic Aonghusa and Magistra Adelaisa Bernois.

Yours in service,
Lady Alexis of Dragonsspine
Chronicler of Dragonsspine

Interview with Maistir Turlough and Magistra Adelaisa Bernois, outgoing Baron and Baroness of Dragonsspine:

You've been Baron and Baroness for close to three years now. When you first became Baron and Baroness, what did you hope to accomplish?

Turlough: We were speaking casually for at least two years about the possibility of doing this. Neither one of us can actually pinpoint the exact conversation where we said we should do this together. It's faded into the past. We did spend a year intentionally presenting ourselves as candidates without actually saying we're running. I think during that time we discussed our goals and what our plans were for the barony.

Adelaisa: One of the things that we really hoped to accomplish was to rebuild the momentum and the growth of the barony. Coming out of COVID, things were a little, I won't say stale, but just kind of cyclical. We were doing the things just out of pure momentum.

Turlough: People weren't comfortable talking to people face to face for a while there, so gatherings were quiet and awkward, and there just wasn't a lot of community. There was a lot of familiarity, but not a lot of community. And we just thought, let's get people together again.

Adelaisa: And help bring back some of that joy of the game.

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Do you feel that you've accomplished it to the level that you were hoping?

Adelaisa: I think you always have grandiose dreams of what you can accomplish. And there are definitely some things that we didn't get to do, at least in the same way that we wanted to, because a lot of this job is working with people. Just because you have a plan doesn't mean that everybody else has the same plan.

I think the barony is in an incredibly healthy spot right now. In that regard, yes, we were able to accomplish that rebuilding of community. We're seeing old guard Dragonsspine come out and play and participate, and new guard, new members coming and joining.

Turlough: We're seeing growth and participation.

Adelaisa: All round the entire group.

Turlough: In that light, we met our goals. We also decided let's get Dragonsspine recognized and known again. We wanted to get our colors out there, hoping people would see gold and purple and think Dragonsspine when they see us in public.

Adelaisa: That one didn't work out quite as well. We tried. It just never quite got to where we wanted it to go.

Turlough: Our champions are wearing our baldrics (mostly). Adelaisa's purple tablecloths are very recognizable.

Adelaisa: I think that was probably one of the best things that we did.

Turlough: Stake our claim in somebody else's barony?

Adelaisa: Those four round purple tablecloths we bought probably within our first six months. Someone could roll into Caerte and see the purple tablecloths. We were very adamant that those tables were open to anybody who loved Dragonsspine. We didn't even necessarily restrict it to our populace. At first, we had a couple households that would say, "Oh, this table's for Dragonspinions," and throw their tablecloth on top. We were like, "Nope, you can sit here, but this is not YOUR table. This is OUR table." I think that really helped break down some barriers and give some of our newer members places to go. As they came in, if nothing else, they could find the purple tablecloths and know they've got a spot. Community without necessarily having relationships. You form them when you sit down.

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You've both talked about wanting to bring the community together without necessarily knowing people ahead of time, and you brought it around beautifully. You have a place, so you have a community. It feels like your goal didn't really change throughout the three years, but were there ways that it changed or shifted?

Turlough: The fact that you have goals is more important than actually meeting the two or three goals you originally had. I think it allows you to adapt and grow and change. So yes, there are some things that we initially thought we could accomplish that we probably did not even begin to touch very well or just started to, but that left us with the ability to grow our other goals and continue where the populace needed us. I mean, we couldn't just dictate what we wanted done and have it done.

I've said since before we ran that we're pretty much glorified cheerleaders. We inspire. We can guide. We can pick a direction and work towards it. But it is not in my direction or Adelaisa's direction. It's the Barony's direction. That requires our officers. It requires the input and the participation of the populace. So again, the fact that I didn't meet my goal is not as important as the barony met its goals.

Adelaisa: I don't even know if it's necessarily that the goal changed as much as how we're going to get to the goal. That path changed more than the goal itself changed. It was OK, we were still going that direction, but we're not going to get there the way we thought it we were.

Turlough: And that's absolutely fine.

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How do you feel your time as Baron and Baroness have affected you and/or your view of Dragonsspine or the SCA?

Turlough: I think every time I've stepped up into a higher level of participation or responsibility, it's given me insight into parts of the society that I didn't even know existed. I was always a bystander. I intentionally stayed in the background as much as I could. We would drink during court in the background, right? "Let us know if someone calls our name" kind of thing. When you pick up an officer position, you start realizing, "Oh, these people are making decisions and things need to be done." There are requirements from the Society to be a barony that someone in the normal populace may not be aware of. Those realizations were eye openers. After a decade or so, you realize there's even deeper layers.

When I started doing Kingdom service, it really opened my eyes that everything I took advantage of that helped me grow as a person in the Outlands couldn't have been done unless somebody was behind the scenes doing the things that I didn't even know were being done. As I started participating less because of injuries, I decided I needed to do more of the stuff that allowed me to do those fun things. So I think my growth has been realizing we cannot do what we love without somebody (not me) doing the hard things. If I can help those hard things happen, great. I did something to pay back for everything I've been able to use.

Adelaisa: I think one of the unexpected changes on my part was discovering "Court Adelaisa." She's an interesting one. It's a different side of myself than I expected. I've gotten to recognize this other side or piece of my personality, not just the prim and proper dignified piece, that started to come out at our investiture court.
I don't normally think of myself as very extroverted and outgoing, but with the first court we fully ran on our own, I felt those walls just breaking down. We were able to recognize our populace and see so much joy. I just felt this giddy joy and felt so hyper and decided, "We're just going to lean into this." It was fun being able to just relax and have that levity. So that is definitely one way being Baroness has affected me, recognizing this other piece.

It's also affected my view of the game. I think if anything, it's emphasized the community that this game has and just the layers that go into making this game happen. You know, I had friends all over the Kingdom, but I've been able to grow those friendships and build more relationships all over this Kingdom. There are some I wish I could connect with better and it's not going to happen, and that's OK. But seeing how much everybody who plays this game loves this game is an amazing thing to see.

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What's your favorite memory from your time as Baron and Baroness?

Adelaisa: My favorite personal memory of the last three years was receiving my Stag's Blood at Battlemoor Court. It was definitely a real highlight for me and brought me a lot of joy. Otherwise, as Baroness representing the barony, my favorite memories are watching specific members of the populace come out of their shell and grow in large part as a result of some of the things we've put in place that they know nothing about. Being able to watch that has been truly some of the most rewarding parts of this job.

Being able to step back and push the button on the machine that set the thing in motion that enabled specific members of our populace to grow and evolve and find new joy in the game for themselves.

Turlough: Absolutely. I mean, one of my favorite sayings from the military management I used to do, “You cannot motivate a person.” You can manipulate the environment so they're able to and will motivate themselves. In the SCA, I can't sign checks. I can't sign contracts. I can't make big-picture decisions for the barony, but what I can do is try to work behind the scenes to try and speak to individuals, provide counsel to the crown. Being able to help people without them even knowing is incredibly gratifying. Not that I did that, it's that they did that, but I was able to help them get there. Those are awesome. I absolutely love that.

I'm an introverted extrovert. I hate people, but I love crowds, so this has really not been that difficult for me to stand in front of 200 people and speak. I do that a lot with my job and with the military. It's the personal interactions that were difficult. Sometimes, I'm a bit emotional. You see me on stage being able to connect with somebody and watch their joy. I think those are my favorite memories, just being able to impact people. I didn't do it, but I was able to share in their joy, which makes me feel really good.

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Do you have anything that you want to tell your successors?

Adelaisa: I would actually just say thank you to both sets of candidates for being willing to serve the barony. I'm sure we'll have some more specific words with each of them, but thank you for being willing to take the step.

Turlough: Her Majesty stole my line this morning. It takes courage to step up, and I respect and appreciate everyone who's ever put their name in. They really put themselves out there in front of their friends, their family, their peers, their people. They don't even know it took courage to do that and it is intimidating. So thank you.

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Are there any last words that either of you or both of you would like to add?

Adelaisa: Thank you, Dragonsspine. It's been an honor.

Turlough: Thank you.

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Interview conducted March 1, 2026

Upcoming Events

April 11 @ 9 am – 6pm

al-Barran 50th Anniversary

The Menaul School

301 Menaul Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM

Join the Barony of al-Barran for our free celebration of 50 years of history, service, and community with a day devoted to all things al-Barran! This golden anniversary event honors our past while reveling in the vibrant spirit that continues to shape our Barony.

April 12 @ 9am – 6 pm

STAGs Con

Online Links

Ever wonder what a specific office does? Do you run an office and have a few questions. Are you an experienced officer interested in the latest and greatest policy? Then STAGs Con is your event. All are welcome to attend this free on-line event.

April 18 @ 9 am – April 19 @ 7 pm

Spring Crown Tournament

Colorado State Fairgrounds

1001 Beulah Ave, Pueblo, CO

Join us in the heart of the Outlands for Outlands Spring Crown Tournament, AS LX. Swords will clash in epic duels, presenting a dazzling display of skill, valor, and above all else– honor. At day's end, Their Majesties will present Royal Heirs seated by Their side.

May 2 @ 9 am – 6 pm

May Day in the Park

North Mesa Picnic Grounds

280 North Mesa Road, Los Alamos, NM

We invite you to join with us for a lovely celebration of Spring in the Beautiful Northern Mountains of the Southern Outlands. There will be games and crafts, dancing and re-decorating the May pole, thrown weapons of all sorts, rapier fighting, and perhaps some Heavy.

May 9 @ 8 am – 5 pm

Dragonsspine Investiture

Grace and St. Stephans Episcopal Church

601-631 N Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO

As we look to the past and the fine works of the previous Baronage who have guided us, we find it time to close this chapter of our history and look to the next chapter. Join us in welcoming Master Robert and Her Ladyship Isabeau as they are invested as the new Baronage of Dragonsspine!

May 21 @ 10 am – 25 @ 12 pm

Grand Outlandish Tournaments

Frank's Land

69 Doc Holiday Road, Edgewood, NM

Come forth and partake in a gathering most grand, where valor and revelry walk hand in hand. Upon the field shall stout hearts clash in noble combat; archers shall test their aim; weapons shall be cast with strength and skill; and the Arts & Sciences shall shine in all their splendor. Tables shall groan beneath a generous feast, and cups shall be raised in glad fellowship — for the site is wet and cheer shall not be lacking.

May 29 @ 2 pm – 31 @ 5 pm

Gurkenlandschaft (Pickle Gulch)

South Platte Valley Historic Park

2001 Historic Pkwy, Fort Lupton, CO

Will you experience the Bread & Butter sweetness of victory, or shall you taste the Dill sourness of defeat?
Pickles, Beer, and Fighting, Oh My! This year something special is happening, we are combining Gurkenschluct and Northern Baronial Champions!

June 5 @ 12 am – 7 @ 12 pm

Fire on the Plains

Antelope Run

36725 Fiddleback Ranch Circle, Kiowa, CO

We will be celebrating all Arts and Sciences, but concentrating on those that can be done outdoors with little or no power. We will be camping over the weekend and will also have a merchants area. There will be Blacksmithing demos, armor making, arrowhead creation, as well as Archery, Armored Combat, and Fencing practice. Come out and enjoy the fun, set up the tent and see if you need anything to make it functional for Battlemoor a few weeks away!

June 23 @ 1 pm – 28 @ 4 pm

Battlemoor XIV: Kill Them with Kindness

Golden Eagle Campground

710 Rock Creek Canyon Rd STE 200, Colorado Springs, CO

We welcome one and all to "kill them with kindness" in a show of hospitality in celebration of all that is Outlands. Enjoy vendors, Arts & Sciences classes, nightly revelry, Martial activities (Archery, Equestrian, Rapier, and Armored Fighting), Camaraderie, Hospitality, Honor, and Valor.

Baronial Court

Baron
Maistir Toirrdhealbhaigh mic Aonghusa (just Turlough) baron@dragonsspine.org

Baroness
Magistra Adelaisa Bernois baroness@dragonsspine.org

Officers of the Barony

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What's going on?

Legal Information

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Artwork for officers' badges by Chiara Francesca Arianna d'Onofrio (Francesca V. Havas).

Regular Activities

Fighter Practice
Sundays
Winter: Archery School of the Rockies 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Summer: Nancy Lewis Park 5:00 PM to dark

Archery Practice
Sundays
Summer: Sir Ton's Field 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Weather Dependent

Business Meeting
via Zoom on the second Monday at 7:30 pm.

Dragonmoot
2nd and 4th Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 East Library

A&S/Largesse Workshops
As Needed/Varied
All meetings may be cancelled or changed at the host's discretion. Please keep an eye on the Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Addresses
Archery School of the Rockies: 2110 Busch Ave, 80904

Nancy Lewis Park: 2615 N Logan Ave, 80907

Sir Ton's Field: NE corner of McFerran Rd & Hungate Rd, Black Forest, 80908

Who are we?

The Barony of Dragonsspine is a local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA), within the Kingdom of the Outlands.

The SCA is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to learning more about the Middle Ages through reenactment. There are SCA chapters worldwide, and they hold regular feasts, tournaments, balls, and battles.

The Outlands includes New Mexico, Colorado, and parts of Texas and Wyoming.

Dragonsspine includes El Paso and Teller County, Colorado—centered on Colorado Springs, CO.

Wherever you are, we're a friendly group of people, so why not visit us all?

We're on the Web at: dragonsspine.outlands.org

We're also. on Facebook as Barony of Dragonsspine